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June 2, 1994

Mr. William F. Caton, Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
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In re: GEN Docket No. 90-314
Written Ex Parte Communication on Unlicensed PCS

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Caton:

In a written Ex Parte communication filed in the above-referenced docket on May 25, 1994, Motorola, Inc. ("Motorola") submitted a summary of a frequency plan it proposed for broadband and unlicensed PCS. In the May 25 letter Motorola proposed that an allocation of spectrum for unlicensed devices be made at 1910-1930 MHz. Motorola also advocated that the voice segment be located in the 1910-1920 MHz band and be divided into discrete 1.25 MHz channels. Motorola's rationale for the use of 1.25 MHz channels is that such a channelization scheme will "maximize access to the band by unlicensed devices."

Ericsson does not take issue with Motorola's recommendation that the unlicensed band be 20 MHz. Neither does Ericsson have objection to a division of the unlicensed band into separate 10 MHz sub-bands for data and voice devices, respectively. However, Ericsson sees no reason for the Commission to depart from its existing band plan in which the 1910-1920 MHz portion is allocated for unlicensed data devices and the 1920-1930 MHz portion is allocated for unlicensed voice devices. Most importantly, Ericsson strongly objects to that aspect of the Motorola proposal which would divide the voice portion of the unlicensed band into 1.25 MHz channels for the reasons set forth below:

1. Use of 1.25 MHz segments for unlicensed voice devices does not maximize access to the band. In fact, the opposite is true. Many manufacturers who have participated in the PCS debate, including Ericsson, have developed wideband technologies (i.e., technologies whose carriers or channels use more than 1.25 MHz of spectrum) for the unlicensed PCS band. Wideband technologies are highly spectrum

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Mr. William F. Caton
Page Two
June 2, 1994

efficient inasmuch as they can support very high numbers of users in high traffic environments. An arbitrary rule which divides the unlicensed PCS voice spectrum into 1.25 MHz channels will deprive wideband manufacturers from participating in the unlicensed PCS market. This will have the effect of preventing, rather than promoting, competition in the unlicensed PCS marketplace. Ultimately, consumers and businesses will have fewer equipment choices translating into higher prices for unlicensed PCS devices.

2. Though the Motorola proposal places the unlicensed PCS spectrum in the band with the fewest microwave links (i.e., the sweet spot spectrum), band clearing for the unlicensed band remains a critical component to the rapid deployment of nomadic unlicensed PCS devices. Any rule which restricts technology choices and hence the number of manufacturers that can sell devices for the unlicensed band reduces the funds available to clear microwave links and increases the time to clear the entire 1910-1930 MHz unlicensed band.

3. From a technical standpoint there is no reason to arbitrarily limit the voice portion of the unlicensed PCS band to channels 1.25 MHz in width. In view of the fact that a "listen before talk" spectrum etiquette has been adopted and incorporated into the Commission's unlicensed PCS rules, narrowband devices (devices whose channels or carriers use bandwidths equal to or less than 1.25 MHz) and wideband unlicensed devices are certainly able to co-exist in the same spectrum. In fact, when the Commission adopted the original rules for unlicensed PCS devices it specifically allowed wideband and narrowband devices to use the lower portion of the isochronous band. See, Section 15.321(a) of the *Second Report and Order* in GEN Docket No. 90-314. Clearly, if wideband and narrowband systems could not co-exist, the rule would not have been adopted.


4. At previous Ex Parte meetings Ericsson has had with the PCS Task Force, it was specifically asked about a proposal in which the unlicensed band would be reduced to a total of 20 MHz at 1910-1930 MHz, with voice and data devices being given separate 10 MHz blocks. Ericsson lent its support to such an allocation scheme on two conditions. First, that the Commission eliminate 1.25 MHz band segmentation thus allowing both narrowband and wideband devices to use the voice portion of the spectrum. Second, that the FCC encourage industry to adopt "crossover" rules to

Mr. William F. Caton
Page Three
June 2, 1994

enable voice devices to use some of the spectrum allocated for data and to allow data devices to use some of the spectrum allocated for voice, thus maximizing the use of the total unlicensed PCS band. Ericsson specifically reiterates that position.

Respectfully submitted,

The Ericsson Corporation



David C. Jatlow
Its Attorney

cc: Chairman Hundt
Commissioner Quello
Commissioner Barrett
Commissioner Ness
Commissioner Chong
Members of the PCS Task Force